



File Code: 2210

Date: May 7, 2015

Steven Fulstone
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Dear

This letter will document the meeting with Aaron Coogan on May 5, 2015 and serve as your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the 2015 grazing season on the Sierra Blanca C&H Allotment. Authorized use for the Little Walker C&H allotment was covered in the AOI for the Little Walker C&H allotment. Authorized use for the Missouri Flat C&H allotment will be covered in an AOI at a later date.

PERMITTED USE

The following is a summary of your permitted use which expires on 12/31/2020:

LIVESTOCK			PERIOD OF USE		GRAZING ALLOTMENT
NUMBER	KIND	CLASS	FROM	TO	
90	Cattle	Cow/calf	6/16	9/15	Little Walker C&H
38*	Cattle	Cow/calf	6/16	9/15	Sierra Blanca C&H
362**	Cattle	Cows	11/1	1/31	Missouri Flat C&H
*Provides for grazing 135 head of cattle under on/off provision on land that is 28% National Forest					
**Provides for grazing 366 head of cattle under on/off provision on land that is 99% National Forest					

This AOI is made part of your grazing permit consistent with Part 1, item 3 and Part 2, Item 8 (a). Situations may develop during the grazing season which requires changes to these instructions. If this becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with some part of these instructions, contact the District Ranger and obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions.

AUTHORIZED USE

Authorized use on the Sierra Blanca C&H allotment will be 80% of permitted. The allotment will be in non-use for resource protection for 20% of permitted numbers. This will allow for a total of 108 cow/calf pairs 31 of which will be considered "on" Forest Service. The rotation schedule will be: 1st Huntoon, 2nd Mack, 3rd Upper Mack, 4th Harvey Creek.

ALLOWABLE USE

The levels of allowable utilization are listed in part three of your term grazing permit. If you need assistance in determining the level of utilization during the grazing season, please contact Aaron. You are responsible for determining when proper use has been reached on the allotments. When proper use has been reached, your cattle must be moved to the next scheduled unit or off the allotment when the last unit has been grazed. The Forest Service is responsible for monitoring your compliance with these standards. The following allowable use standards apply to the Sierra Blanca C&H allotment:



Key Species	Allowable Use
Nevada needlegrass (<i>Achnatherum nevadense</i>)	55%
California needlegrass (<i>Achnatherum occidentale</i>)	55%
Antelope bitterbrush (<i>Purshia tridentata</i>)	50%
Willow (<i>Salix</i> spp)	35%

In riparian communities, allowable use of herbaceous meadow plants is not to exceed 40% overall, which is equivalent to 65% use of key species.

RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

Range improvements listed under part three in your term permit must be maintained before livestock enter the allotment. The maintenance standards, also listed in part three of your permit, must be followed when maintaining improvements. Range improvements must be maintained even when there is non-use on an allotment; for whatever reason.

The boundary fences between Sierra Blanca C&H and Mount Jackson C&H and Sierra Blanca C&H and Frying Pan-Murphy Creek C&H are maintained by you in odd years and by the neighboring permittees in even years.

MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

Allotment maps and management requirements for those allotments you are permitted to graze have been provided to you.

Only the Reverse F M F Combined brand is authorized under your term grazing permit.

Place salt at least ¼ mile from water, roads, and trails. If there are specific areas that require salt placement outside these guidelines, you must obtain approval from this office prior to salting. Haul dead livestock at least 100 yards from roads, trails, and water. All garbage and debris associated with managing your livestock on Forest Service allotments must be removed from the National Forest.

If you or your employees spot a wildfire on any of your allotments, report it immediately to the Interagency Dispatch Center in Minden, NV at (775) 883-5995. As a reminder, if the Bridgeport Ranger District enters into fire restrictions during 2015, this restriction applies to your operation as well.

Invasive weeds are becoming a serious threat to the welfare of our rangelands. Your assistance is needed to identify new outbreaks of weed populations and to prevent the establishment of weeds on the forest. Pay particular attention to areas where stock are concentrated such as loading/unloading areas, water developments, and salting areas. A Noxious Weed Free Hay order has been implemented on our Forest. This requires any hay that is brought onto the National Forest must be certified free from noxious weeds. All livestock entering the National Forest are recommended to be fed Certified Noxious Weed Free Forage for at least 2 days prior to entering the Forest. Pelletized feed is not affected by this order.

REPORTING

I have included forms for recording your actual use and range improvement maintenance on the allotment. Please complete the forms and return them to my office no later than November 30, 2015. Failure to report actual use information may result in **NON-COMPLIANCE** with the terms and conditions of your permit and administrative permit actions may be taken as a result, including but not

limited to; reductions in numbers and season.

GENERAL MANAGEMENT

The 2015 grazing fees have been increased. The fee is \$1.69 per head month.

As a reminder, approval of requests for permittee convenience nonuse is not automatic and the authorized officer should discuss the reasons for the nonuse request with the permittee. Approval of a request for permittee convenience non-use must be in writing by the authorized officer. Full or partial permittee convenience nonuse may be approved by the authorized officer for no more than three consecutive years and not more than four years in any ten year period.

Payment of your grazing bill is due five days prior to your earliest turnout date to allow time for processing. As a reminder the Forest Service is required to give permittees a minimum of 30 days to pay your grazing fees. The Forest Service is requesting that permittees schedule their AOI meeting a minimum of 35 days prior to their earliest on date to provide adequate time to plan for the upcoming grazing season.

The Bridgeport Travel Management Record of Decision was signed on March 5, 2010. With the issuance of this decision all roads and trails designated for motor vehicle use will be identified on a motor vehicle use map (MVUM). As detailed in 36 CFR 261.13; 36 CFR 212.51a the prohibitions on motor vehicle use will not apply to motor vehicle use that is specifically authorized under a written authorization issued under Federal law or regulation (e.g., term grazing permit). You and your employees are authorized to travel on routes within the allotments in your permit to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of your term grazing permit (e.g., improvement maintenance, dead livestock removal)

If you have any questions regarding the Sierra Blanca C&H allotment, contact Aaron Coogan at 760-932-5852.

Sincerely,

/Jeff Ulrich/

Bridgeport District Ranger
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest